

CLAIMS:

1. A network apparatus comprising:

a management station adapted to couple with a network including a plurality of managed devices, the management station being configured to output a plurality of initial commands for application to respective managed devices, the initial commands being configured to stimulate initial responses from the managed devices, the management station being further configured to receive the initial responses, to identify responding ones of the managed devices responsive to the received initial responses, and to provide an asset table containing the identified managed devices.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the management station is configured to execute a Simple Network Management Protocol management program.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the management station is configured to communicate with the managed devices using Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol communications.

1 4. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the management
2 station is configured to select a plurality of subsequent commands
3 responsive to the received initial responses and the subsequent
4 commands are configured to stimulate subsequent responses from
5 respective managed devices, to output the subsequent commands for
6 application to respective managed devices, to receive the subsequent
7 responses, to identify responding ones of the managed devices responsive
8 to the received subsequent responses, and to provide the subsequently
9 identified managed devices within the asset table.

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11 5. The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the received
12 initial responses comprise failed responses.

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14 6. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the management
15 station is configured to compare individual received initial responses with
16 a device table to identify the device types of responding ones of the
17 managed devices.

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19 7. The apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the management
20 station is configured to apply management commands to respective
21 identified managed devices, the applied management commands
22 individually correspond to respective device types of the identified
23 managed devices.
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a management station configured to output a plurality of initial commands to respective managed devices, the initial commands being configured to stimulate initial responses from the managed devices, the management station being further configured to receive the initial responses, to identify responding ones of the managed devices responsive to the received initial responses, and to provide an asset table containing the identified managed devices.

10. The network according to claim 8 wherein the management station is configured to communicate with the managed devices using Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol communications.

11. The network according to claim 8 wherein the management station is configured to select a plurality of subsequent commands responsive to the received initial responses and the subsequent commands are configured to stimulate subsequent responses from respective managed devices, to output the subsequent commands for application to respective managed devices, to receive the subsequent responses, to identify responding ones of the managed devices responsive to the received subsequent responses, and to provide the subsequently identified managed devices within the asset table.

12. The network according to claim 11 wherein the received initial responses comprise failed responses.

13. The network according to claim 8 wherein the management station is configured to compare the received initial responses with a device table to identify the device types of responding ones of the managed devices.

14. The network according to claim 13 wherein the management station is configured to apply management commands to respective identified managed devices, the applied management commands individually correspond to respective device types of the identified managed devices.

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15. A computer program product comprising:

computer usable program code configured to cause a management station to communicate a plurality of initial commands to a plurality of managed devices of a network;

computer usable program code configured to cause the management station to receive a plurality of initial responses from the managed devices;

computer usable program code configured to cause the management station to identify responding ones of the managed devices;

and

computer usable program code configured to cause the management station to provide the identified ones of managed devices in an asset table.

16. The product according to claim 15 further comprising computer usable data comprising a device table corresponding to the managed devices.

1 17. The product according to claim 15 further comprising
2 computer usable program code configured to cause the management
3 station to select a plurality of subsequent commands responsive to the
4 received initial responses and the subsequent commands are configured
5 to stimulate subsequent responses from respective managed devices, to
6 output the subsequent commands for application to respective managed
7 devices, to receive the subsequent responses, to identify responding ones
8 of the managed devices responsive to the received subsequent responses,
9 and to provide the subsequently identified managed devices within the
10 asset table.

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12 18. The product according to claim 17 wherein the received
13 initial responses comprise failed responses.

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15 19. The product according to claim 15 further comprising:
16 computer usable data including a state transition table including
17 a plurality of identifiers; and

18 computer usable program code configured to cause the
19 management station to compare the received initial responses with the
20 identifiers to identify the device types of the respective responding
21 managed devices.
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1 20. The product according to claim 15 further comprising
2 computer usable program code configured to cause the management
3 station to apply a plurality of management commands to respective
4 identified managed devices, the applied management commands
5 individually correspond to respective device types of the identified
6 managed devices.

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8 21. The product according to claim 15 further comprising
9 computer usable data including a node table comprising a plurality of
10 node locations for respective managed devices.

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12 22. A management station, operational method comprising:
13 providing a network comprising a plurality of managed devices;
14 outputting a plurality of initial commands to the managed devices
15 using a management station to stimulate initial responses from the
16 managed devices;
17 receiving the initial responses from the managed devices using the
18 management station; and
19 identifying the managed devices using the management station
20 responsive to the receiving the initial responses.

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22 23. The method according to claim 22 further comprising
23 providing identified managed devices within an asset table.
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1 24. The method according to claim 22 further comprising
2 executing Simple Network Management Protocol management programs
3 using the managed devices and the management station.

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5 25. The method according to claim 22 wherein the outputting
6 and receiving individually comprise outputting and receiving using
7 Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol communications.

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9 26. The method according to claim 22 further comprising:
10 selecting a plurality of subsequent commands responsive to the
11 receiving the initial responses;
12 outputting the subsequent commands to the managed devices;
13 receiving a plurality of subsequent responses from the managed
14 devices using the management station following the outputting the
15 subsequent commands;
16 identifying the managed devices communicating the subsequent
17 responses using the management station responsive to the receiving the
18 subsequent responses; and
19 providing the subsequently identified managed devices within an
20 asset table.

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22 27. The method according to claim 26 wherein the selecting
23 subsequent commands is responsive to the receiving the initial responses
24 comprising failed responses.

1 28. The method according to claim 22 wherein the identifying
2 comprises comparing the received initial responses with a device table
3 to identify the device types of responding ones of the managed devices.
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5 29. The method according to claim 28 further comprising
6 updating the device table after the receiving.
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8 30. The method according to claim 22 wherein the identifying
9 comprises identifying the device types of the managed devices, and
10 further comprising applying a plurality of management commands to the
11 identified managed devices individually corresponding to respective device
12 types of the identified managed devices.
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